



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Dr. Elena Perry-Thornton, M.D.**

**DETROIT DOCTOR SENTENCED TO  
SIX YEARS IN PRISON ON DRUG CHARGE**

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A Detroit physician who pleaded guilty to unlawfully distributing thousands of dosages of prescription pain killers in the course of her medical practice was sentenced to 72 months in federal prison, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Robert Corso, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration.

Dr. Elena Perry-Thornton, M.D., age 55, of Detroit, pleaded guilty on June 23, 2006 to illegally prescribing the powerful prescription pain reliever OxyContin (oxycodone), in exchange for \$150 in cash. Information presented to the Court at the time of the guilty plea showed that between April of 2005 and September 28, 2005, Dr. Perry-Thornton illegally prescribed over 90,000 dosage units of Schedule II, III and IV drugs.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Medical professionals who seek to profit from the rising demand for illegal prescription drugs should know that they are risking more than their

medical license. Any doctor who sells prescriptions and endangers the public for personal gain should expect to serve a substantial term of incarceration.”

At sentencing, the government noted that the victims of the defendant’s criminal conduct included those living in the defendant’s neighborhood who were exposed to the use of her residence as a prescription drug house; the drug users who became addicted to the drugs; and the identity theft victims whose identifications were stolen and used to fill fraudulent prescriptions.

In addition to the prison sentence, Federal District Court Judge Arthur J. Tarnow also ordered that the defendant serve two years of supervised release after her release from prison. In imposing the sentence, Judge Tarnow specifically cited the defendant’s abuse of the trust that was placed in her by society, and the fact that her crimes were motivated by personal greed.

U.S. Attorney Murphy thanked the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Wayne County Sheriff’s Department and the Detroit Police Department for assistance in the successful investigation of the case. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Wayne F. Pratt